

Baxter Springs News

CHAS. L. SMITH, Editor & Owner.

BAXTER SPRINGS - KANSAS

"Miss," or "Mrs.?"

A number of unmarried English women, who have reached an age about which it would be ungenerous to inquire too closely, have been complaining in the papers of the rule that all married women shall be called "Mrs.," and all unmarried women "Miss," no matter what their ages may be. They point out the fact that a boy, who is "Master" in his early life, becomes "Mr." by the mere lapse of time, whether he marries or not; but that a girl who begins as "Miss," continues to be "Miss" until she marries. This was not always the case, as the curious may discover by looking up the history of "Miss," "Mrs." and "Mistress." The English women maintain that the title by which they are called, as spinsters, is not conducive to the deference which is accorded to married women, and which they demand for themselves. The remedy they propose—that all women be called "Mrs." after reaching the age of 40—would be of doubtful efficacy. Men would go on calling their women acquaintances "Miss" until they received what the newspapers call "official" notice that the age limit was passed. The old "darker" woman stated a fact of general application, says Youth's Companion, when she said that the happiest person is an old maid "when she has quit strugglin'." The woman who cares whether she is called "Miss" or "Mrs.," when her hair is turning, is still "strugglin'."

The state department of agriculture has taken a step which may help to solve the problem of adjusting the matter of labor for farms and at the same time put dwellers in the city in the way of acquiring knowledge and health, says the Troy (N. Y.) Times. The department has issued a bulletin asking for volunteers from boys and girls in high schools who wish employment during the summer vacation. The boys are to have farm work of a character suited to their capacity, such as aiding in the planting and gathering of crops and helping the farmers in other ways, all of which will tend to lighten the labor of the agriculturist and also give the boys valuable insight into farm life. The girls for the most part are expected to serve as clerks and stenographers and to do light duty about summer resorts, although probably there will be no objection to letting those so disposed act as helps to rural housewives. That the idea is not wholly repellent to the youthful element is shown by the fact that there are already over 2,500 applications from high school boys of New York city alone, the young fellows being desirous of engaging in the occupations suggested. Who knows but the high school boy of the present will be the successful farmer of the future?

The pope recently entertained the members of the Sacred college with the recital of how a certain gold coin had been given to him as a jubilee gift by the diocese of Acqui. This coin was discovered in 1898, while excavations were being made for the foundation of a new church at Acqui. Upon examination it was found to be the only coin in existence of the period of Innocent IX. The diocese of Acqui was unable to pay the architect who had drawn the plans for the new church, so it gave him the coin with the understanding that if he sold it for more than \$1,200, the amount of his bill, the surplus should be returned to the diocese. Later the clergy collected the \$1,200, bought the coin, and presented it to the pope. This coin was the only one lacking to complete the Vatican collection of coins issued under all the popes.

Mr. William Waldorf Astor recently bought the flag of the Chesapeake, which was captured by the Shannon. It was at first thought that the flag would be returned to this country, but Mr. Astor has given it to the United Service museum. For this Mr. Astor, who is an American-born, naturalized citizen of Great Britain, has been censured by some American newspapers. The complaint is that although the flag, as a prize of war, should be kept in England, an expatriated American ought not to bid it in when other Americans and native Englishmen were trying to buy it. International amenities will not be seriously jarred by the episode, and spurious patriotism can take this opportunity to let off steam.

SOLONS SHIELD FEATHERED FLOCK

IN a majority of the states of the union it is a misdemeanor to have in possession a living native American song bird. It doubtless will be a revelation to many people who have caged cardinals or mocking birds as pets to know that they are law breakers. But such is the case, and instances are not rare where owners of feathered prisoners have been summoned to court and fined.

Probably it may seem to the pet bird owner that the law is drastic and one which should be repealed, but when he learns the real facts in the case he may be willing to admit that the lawmakers knew what they were about. Until within a few years scores of species of native birds were trapped, caged and sold with impunity. To-day the traffic is largely confined to mocking birds (*Mimus polyglottus*) and to cardinal grosbeaks (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), or, as they are called more frequently, redbirds.

The fight of the bird protectors against the dealers and trappers of mocking birds and redbirds is hot. Many of the northern states have laws against caging wild birds which are extremely faulty in the wording. If the bird is brought from another state the owner of it cannot be convicted in the state in which suit is brought. This is true, however, in comparatively few states. In others the possession of any living bird, no matter where it was trapped, is made an offense.

The recently enacted Lacy law, which is a part of the interstate commerce statute, makes it illegal to transport birds from one state into another if they have been illegally trapped.

Bird protectors were confronted by a hard task when they started the work of preventing the traffic in native American song birds. Hundreds of men, the majority of them Germans and Italians, who had been engaged in the same kind of work in the old country, made their living trapping birds during the nesting season, in the suburbs of the great cities. In the north the birds captured most frequently were the goldfinch, the bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), and the indigo bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). The capture of birds of these three species is one of the easiest matters in the world, the victims actually

ILLEGAL TO POSSESS NATIVE AMERICAN SONGSTERS—WORK OF TRAPPERS.

HOT FIGHT AGAINST THEM

Expert Clark Discourses on the Numerous Devices for Illegal Shipping of Game Birds—A "Corpse" of 1,500 Dead Quails.

BY EDWARD B. CLARK.

(Associate Member American Ornithologists' Union.)
(Copyright, Joseph B. Bowles.)

In the Hoosier state where the quality of the food and water was such that the birds never moulted and never lost their springtime song.

Members of the Audubon society caused the arrest of a man who had trapped five goldfinches in a city suburb. The trapper was one who supplied the great city dealers with native songsters. The case was a test one. The man who was arrested had little money, but the bird dealers rallied to his defense. The case was

kept or not. In the present day of an awakened conscience it is a different matter, and shippers are put to it to get their game to the cities without having it discovered and seized by the watchful officials.

I recently saw several dozen quail, which had been taken from the mattress in a folding bed, the bed and the mattress having been shipped to the city as a harmless bit of household furniture. Many a barrel of apples has a core of grouse, and below the upper layer of eggs in the ordinary shipping box frequently are found woodcock and quail.

It was left for a Minnesota man to outdo all others in ingenuity when it came to a question of an attempt to deceive the game warden. Not long ago a pine box of the regulation coffin-closing size and marked on the outside "Corpse" was delivered to a city commission house. The box came through on a passenger ticket, as is usual when a body is shipped. The railroad people treated that package with respect, and doubted not that the person to whom it was addressed was an undertaker. At the depot in the city a man appeared and took charge of the "remains." There was a suspicious



Cardinal Grosbeak (Redbird).



The Mocking Bird.

seeming "to fall over one another" in their anxiety to get into the trap. The device used for their capture looks like an ordinary bird cage, save that midway between the top and bottom it is divided into two parts. In the lower section a decoy bird is placed. The upper section has a swing door in the roof, which opens and lies back flat on the top of the cage. Within is a perch upon which the victim, lured by the notes of the decoy bird, alights. Its weight upon the perch frees a spring and the door in the roof closes with a snap.

The men who sold bobolinks, indigo birds and goldfinches after having purchased them from the trappers were guilty of a petty deception which certainly had its humorous side. There are no more beautiful birds in springtime in the whole range of feathered life than the three species named. In addition to their beauty the gladness of the early years stir them to song. As the summer wanes, however, the birds lose their beauty, dropping their gay attire for a garb of dun color.

It is doubtless unnecessary to say that the dealers, in selling the tuneless spring beauties, made no mention of the fact that with the coming of fall their plumage would be dulled and their sweet voices changed to a dismal creak. The purchaser bought and learned later that he was "sold." The ends to which a dealer would go to make a sale are illustrated by an experience I once had with a sidewalk merchant, who was offering caged bobolinks to the passers. I said to the man that some one had told me that the bird would lose its voice and its beauty in the fall. He assured me with never a change of countenance nor even the suspicion of a twinkle in his eye that all his bobolinks came from a certain county

in court 14 times before a decision was given. The bird dealers, many of them rich men, had employed the best counsel that money and the local profession could supply. All the means known to the technicalities of the law were taken to secure continuances in order to tire out the bird protectors, who were working for nothing except principle, and who had to suspend business in order to attend the case.

Finally the bird trapper was convicted in the superior court and fined five dollars for each bird found in his possession. The case was appealed, and finally passed upon by the supreme court of the state, which upheld the lower court and gave the victory to the members of the Audubon society. The goldfinches at the then current market rates were worth 50 cents apiece, or \$2.50 for the five which figured in the case. It was estimated that these five birds cost the dealers in fines, lawyers' fees and expenses \$2,500 before the final decision was given by the supreme court.

The dealers in live birds practically are unable to violate the provisions of the Lacy act because of the difficulty which confronts them in the matter of shipping their merchandise secretly. Live birds must have air, and then they are apt to sing, thus betraying their presence to the ear of the searching officers. When it comes to transporting dead game birds, however, the problem is an easier one to solve. All kinds of subterfuges are employed to get game to the city market from states out of which its shipment is illegal.

The old scheme was to ship ruffed grouse, quail, woodcock and the rest of the game birds in boxes marked poultry. This little deception was enough in the days when few people cared whether the game laws were

game warden, however, who had received some information from the north. He approached the man who had charge of the box and asked what was in it.

The man hesitated a second, and then said it was a corpse. It was the hesitation that made him lose. The game warden opened the box with a blow of a hammer, and, looking in, said: "If you had made corpse plural you would have told the truth."

There were 1,500 dead quail in the box.

Not long ago a member of the Audubon society found a box of snow buntings in front of a commission house. "What are these?" he asked of the dealer.

"Reed birds," said the man.

"Rats," muttered the questioner.

That word cost him his case, for when 20 minutes later the game warden appeared at the store on information lodged by the bird protector, the snow buntings had disappeared as completely as though they had come to life and had fled to their summer home within the arctic circle.

EDWARD B. CLARK.

Discourage Women Architects.

There is some discussion going on in England as to the advisability of women studying for the profession of architects. It is claimed that there is not enough work to keep all the men architects busy and that it would be impossible to persuade many Englishmen that women could superintend and carry out the work. However, women as consulting architects seem to be very greatly in demand in that country as well as in the United States.

To Avert Crooked Nose.

A doctor asserts that the nose is often made crooked by the custom of using the handkerchief with one hand only. This, scarce need to say, is nearly always the right hand. He advises that the left hand be used in such cases and gravely affirms that he has known several cases in young persons where crookedness of the nose has been entirely removed by this means.

This is the Sugar Age.

Our national sugar bowl now holds approximately 6,000,000,000 pounds and the contents thereof cost us not far from \$300,000,000 a year. The size of the bowl and our individual extraction from it increase steadily. We eat more candy, more jellies and more preserves, and where the cook books of earlier days prescribed "one cup molasses" the books of to-day call for sugar.

WOMAN'S BACKACHE



The back is the mainspring of woman's organism. It quickly calls attention to trouble by aching. It tells, with other symptoms, such as nervousness, headache, pains in the loins, weight in the lower part of the body, that a woman's feminine organism needs immediate attention.

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